

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Hearing Date:** November 19, 2005

**Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:** Continuing Education Requirements  
(Laws and Ethics)

**Sections Affected:** 1397.61(b)

**Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:**

This proposal would broaden the means by which the laws and ethics requirement can be fulfilled by allowing licensed psychologists to fulfill this requirement through training and/or experience. This proposal would also delete the term “ethics codes” and make reference to the actual document adopted and published by the American Psychological Association titled *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.

**Factual Basis/Rationale**

Currently, a licensed psychologist renewing, or reactivating, his/her license is required to complete a four-hour course in laws and ethics and provide written evidence of completion. This proposal will allow a licensed psychologist to obtain training and/or experience in the area in lieu of taking a course thereby, broadening the means by which this requirement can be fulfilled. If the licensee chooses to apply a specific course on the topic of laws and ethics to meet this requirement, such a course must meet the requirements of section 1397.60(c) of the California Code of Regulations.

Currently, the language in this section refers to the ethics codes in general. Section 2936 of the Business and Professions Code states that the board shall establish as its standards of ethical conduct relating to the practice of psychology, the code of ethics adopted and published by the American Psychological Association (APA). Therefore, this proposal replaces the term “ethics codes” with the name of the actual document adopted by the APA, *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.

**Underlying Data**

N/A

**Business Impact**

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

**Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

**Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.